

MAY No.5

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DIARY LOVES

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Glimpses into the intimate secrets of girls in love



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SECTION II—WHAT TO DO TO IMPROVE YOUR RELATIONS WITH OTHERS

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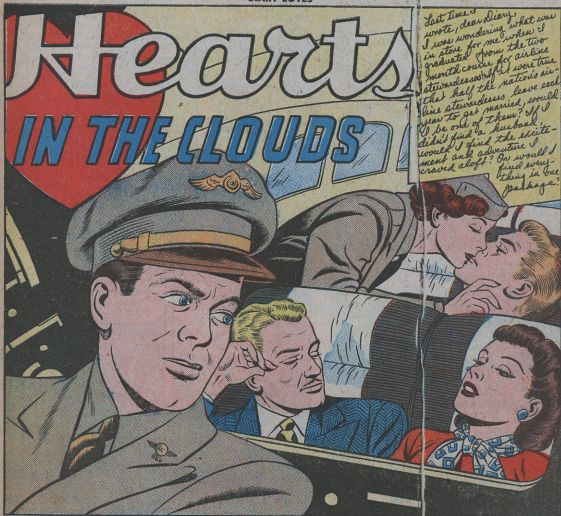
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Last time I wrote, dear diary, I was wondering what was in store for me when I graduated from the two month course for airline stewardesses. I was sure that half the nation's air-line stewardesses would want to get married, would be one of them? If I didn't find a husband, would I find the excitement and adventure I craved aloft? Or would I find something in one package?

But let me tell it as it happened! There was enough of everything to satisfy even the wildest hopes of a girl who embarks on the career I chose!

My luck was good from the start! One day I graduated...

GOOD LUCK, LETTY TAYLOR!

...and the next, I had the offer of a job!

YIPPEE! I'VE GOT IT... A JOB WITH FARLAND AIRLINES!

YOU'RE A WHIZ, LETTY!



DIARY LOVES

My heart beat with eager anticipation as I met the crew I would join for my first flight!



They were all so nice...especially Tom Dawson who was one of the best looking men I had ever seen!



YOU STAND HERE UNTIL THE PASSENGERS GET ON! SMILE SWEETLY NOW!

MY GRIN IS PRACTICALLY FROZEN THERE! I TOOK THE FULL COURSE, YOU KNOW!



Yes, it would be wonderful to work on a ship with a pilot like Tom Dawson...but the good catches were among the passengers! Every stewardess knew that!



Our first flight was uneventful! I didn't tip over any dinner trays, or lose my temper at passengers who wouldn't fasten their safety belts for a landing!

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

IT'S A PLEASURE!



And then the flight was over...

WE STOP OVER HERE UNTIL TOMORROW, LETTY! IF YOU'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING TONIGHT, I'LL SHOW YOU THE TOWN!

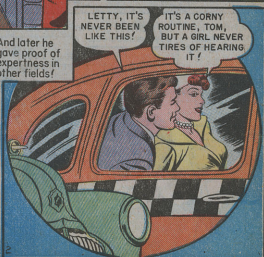
I'D LOVE IT!



LETTY, IT'S NEVER BEEN LIKE THIS!

IT'S A CORNY ROUTINE, TOM, BUT A GIRL NEVER TIRES OF HEARING IT!

And later he gave proof of expertness in other fields!



It was such fun being with Tom! He not only flew an airliner well...he danced like a master!

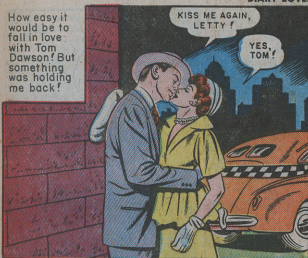
YOU'RE SO EASY TO FOLLOW!

I WANT YOU TO FOLLOW ME, LETTY!



DIARY LOVES

How easy it would be to fall in love with Tom Dawson! But something was holding me back!



I didn't believe what I was saying but I had to have time to think! If Tom told me he loved me, I might let my own heart rule and commit myself!



It wasn't easy to carry out my resolution! Flight after flight Tom and I were together, and I couldn't keep him from saying what was in his heart for very long!



DIARY LOVES



How contrary the female heart can be! A minute ago I had spurned Tom Dawson, yet now that he was angry and walking out on me, I couldn't help crying!



And then one day our crew was put on a trans-Pacific flight! The passengers came aboard, and there he was among them! As soon as I saw *him*, I knew it was the man I had been waiting for!



My heart almost leaped out of my mouth the first time I had occasion to talk to him...and I created that occasion very soon after we took off!



How glad I was that he had taken a rear seat! It made it so much easier to stand there talking to him without attracting too much attention!



DIARY LOVES



My heart sang with delight as I listened to the gay compliments, tossed off with such finesse that even though a hundred other men might have said the same things, they sounded more believable!



How easy it was to forget company rules when I wanted so badly to know his first name and use it!



We had dinner at a charming foreign club and afterward we walked in the beautiful gardens!



Calcutta! Where in the world could there be a more wonderful place for a romance like Chuck's and mine to be born and blossom? We were together all the next day!



We stopped as if simultaneously obeying a command and turned to face each other!



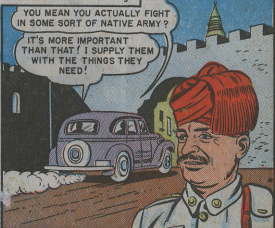
For an answer, Chuck crushed me to his breast... and with the sweet pressure of his lips on mine, I felt as if I were floating on clouds, perfume-scented clouds of emotion...



As we left the gardens, arm in arm, I could think only of the overwhelming love I had just found... but as we returned to the hotel, I regained my composure and remembered that I, Letty Taylor, was supposed to have certain objectives in life!



How well I had known that, whatever he did, it would be adventurous and exciting!



My eager, loving heart gobbled up his words! Chuck Martin was not only a hero, as I saw it, but he must also have vast resources of independent wealth to be able to give so much to the causes of which he spoke!



DIARY LOVES

Chuck was staying at another hotel...and when he left...

LETTY, I OVERHEARD THAT TENDER SCENE!

WELL, THAT'S FINE! I'M GLAD YOU ENJOYED IT! PEOPLE DON'T USUALLY BRAG ABOUT THEIR EAVESDROPPING!



LETTY, BE REASONABLE! I COULDN'T HELP IT! I WAS ABOUT TO GO IN BUT YOU WERE BOTH BLOCKING THE DOORWAY! I HAD TO STAND IN THE SHADOWS OR BREAK IN ON YOU!

MY, MY, HOW CONSIDERATE YOU ARE OF OTHER PEOPLE'S FEELINGS!



LETTY, YOU'RE A STUBBORN LITTLE FOOL, BUT I'M GOING TO TELL YOU WHAT I HAVE TO SAY ANYWAY! I'D DO IT FOR ANY GIRL! STAY AWAY FROM CHUCK MARTIN! HE'S POISON!

I MIGHT HAVE EXPECTED YOU TO SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT! REAL SPORTING, AREN'T YOU, TOM DAWSON?



THERE'S NOTHING PERSONAL IN THIS! I SAW YOU WITH HIM ON THE PLANE, AND I VAGUELY REMEMBERED SEEING HIS PICTURE AND HEARING ABOUT HIM! I DID SOME MORE INVESTIGATING HERE, AND I THOUGHT I OUGHT TO WARN YOU!

SAVE YOUR BREATH! I'M NOT INTERESTED IN ANY MALICIOUS SLANDERS YOU MAY HAVE DREAMED UP BECAUSE OF JEALOUSY

With that, I rushed into the hotel! What could anyone tell me about Chuck Martin? I knew what I wanted to know...that he was the most charming man in the world and probably one of the richest! And beyond all that, I knew that I loved him madly!

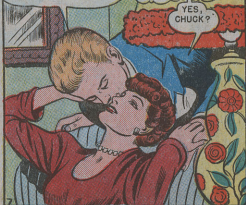


I CAN'T HELP IT IF I WAS A LITTLE ROUGH ON TOM! SOMEBODY ALWAYS HAS TO GET HURT IN THE GAME OF LOVE!

LETTY, I'VE GOT A ROMANTIC IDEA THAT MIGHT APPEAL TO YOU!

OH, HE'S GOING TO ASK ME TO MARRY HIM...AT LAST!

YES, CHUCK?



It was several weeks before I saw Chuck Martin in the States! We were together all the time he and I could spare! Then one night...

I'VE GOT TO GO TO CALCUTTA AGAIN! THERE'S NO SPECIFIC DATE, AND I WAS WONDERING IF I COULD GET ON ONE OF YOUR FLIGHTS WHEN YOU'LL HAVE A SMALL PASSENGER LIST! IT WOULD MEAN SO MANY HOURS ALMOST ALONE TOGETHER!



DIARY LOVES

It was not exactly what I wanted to hear...but it was so typical of Chuck Martin's imaginative, romantic nature that I fell right in with him...

CHUCK, IT WOULD BE WONDERFUL! I COULD FIND OUT AND LET YOU KNOW!



THAT'S GREAT, LETTY!

Only a short time later, I got hold of a passenger list for a scheduled flight to Calcutta and found that there would be a handful of passengers, none of whom were going straight through to our final destination!



CHUCK, DARLING, THIS ONE IS IT!

THAT'S WONDERFUL, LETTY! THERE'S SO MUCH I HAVE TO TELL YOU! WE'LL NEED ALL THAT TIME ALONE!

Wonderful, romantic Chuck! With the setting just right he would propose! I was sure that was what he had in mind! The flight took off on schedule and Chuck was on board!

THE OTHER PASSENGERS ARE GETTING OFF ON THE ISLANDS! WE'LL BE ALONE TOGETHER FOR HOURS! DARLING!

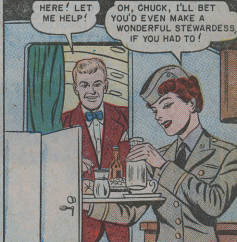


Hours later we let off the last of our passengers and took off for the final hop to Calcutta!

AS SOON AS I'VE SERVED DINNER TO THE CREW, I'LL BE WITH YOU EVERY MINUTE, CHUCK!



I'LL GO WITH YOU! I KNOW IT'S AGAINST COMPANY RULES, BUT WHO'S GOING TO TELL THE COMPANY?



HERE! LET ME HELP!

OH, CHUCK, I'LL BET YOU'D EVEN MAKE A WONDERFUL STEWARDESS, IF YOU HAD TO!

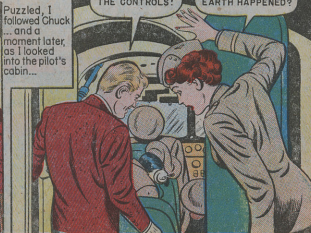
I served the meal to Tom and Hank and Dick, and returned to Chuck's side...



NOW, WHAT WERE WE GOING TO TALK ABOUT? CHUCK, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

FORWARD!

Puzzled, I followed Chuck...and a moment later, as I looked into the pilot's cabin...



I'LL TAKE THE CONTROLS!

WH...WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED?

Baffled and mystified, I could only gape at Chuck as he took the controls.... and suddenly I became aware of the grim, ruthless look on his face.... a look I had never seen there before!

CHUCK, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD FLY A PLANE! BUT WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE HAPPENED TO THE BOYS? COULD IT HAVE BEEN SOMETHING IN THE FOOD?

YES, LETTY, AND I PUT IT THERE! I MAY AS WELL SAVE YOU THE TROUBLE OF FIGURING THIS OUT! YOU'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH!



CHUCK, YOU... YOU POISONED THEM WHILE YOU WERE HELPING ME! WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?

I'M DELIVERING THIS PLANE TO A REBEL ARMY IN THE HIMALAYAS! YOU SEE, WE AREN'T HEADING FOR CALCUTTA NOW! HA! HA! I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR BEING SO GULLIBLE, LETTY!



IF YOU HADN'T TIPPED ME OFF ON THE PASSENGER LIST, I MIGHT NOT HAVE FOUND THE OPPORTUNITY TO KNOCK OUT TWENTY OR THIRTY PEOPLE AT ONCE... AND THESE PEOPLE I'M HELPING DO NEED A BIG TRANSPORT PLANE BADLY!

SORRY! THEN IT'S FOR THIS THAT YOU CULTIVATED ME! OH, WHAT A FOOL I WAS NOT TO HAVE LISTENED TO WHAT TOM HAD TO TELL ME!



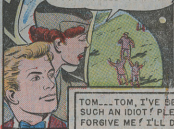
NO, LET'S NOT BE SENTIMENTAL, MARTIN! LUCKY THING FOR ME, I DIDN'T FEEL VERY HUNGRY, THANKS TO THE TORCH I'VE BEEN CARRYING FOR LETTY TAYLOR!



The next few hours were filled with an agony of frustration and hatred.... hatred for the man who had deceived me, and for my stubborn, stupid self! Then Chuck was pointing downward!

THERE'S OUR AIR STRIP, LETTY! HA! HA! WE MADE IT! THEY'RE NOT VERY NICE GUYS BUT THEY PAY ME VERY WELL... AND I'LL BE AN INTERNATIONAL BIG SHOT WHEN THEY SEIZE POWER! OF COURSE I'LL SEE TO IT THAT THEY SPARE YOU, BABY!

CHUCK, YOU'RE A MONSTER IF YOU LET THEM HARM TOM AND THE BOYS! YOU CAN'T... YOU CAN'T!



Tom took the controls and gained altitude in the nick of time! A little while later, Hank and Dick came to and made Chuck our prisoner! My heart ached for Tom's forgiveness! Oh, I would try to get it... try so hard!

TOM... TOM, I'VE BEEN SUCH AN IDIOT! PLEASE ARRANGED, FORGIVE ME! I'LL DO LETTY! ANYTHING TO MAKE THIS UP TO YOU!

IT CAN BE ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS PROMISE TO LOVE, HONOR AND OBEY!



I'm not a stewardess anymore, dear Dick... and that survey about airline stewardesses was right! I gave up my job during the first year to get married... to Tom Dawson!

Glamour FOR RENT

THERE'S JANE ORCUTT! SHE'S THE ONE WHO KNOWS THE MOVIE STAR, BRUCE FLAGG!

HMM! FUNNY I'VE NEVER NOTICED HER BEFORE!

THEY'RE TELLING HIM THAT I KNOW BRUCE FLAGG AND IT'S WORKING!

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE HOW I GET HIS INTEREST--JUST SO LONG AS I GET IT!

YOUNG AND PASSIONATELY EAGER TO SIP THE HEADY WINE OF EXCITEMENT, I CAST MYSELF HEADLONG INTO THE DANGEROUS WHIRLPOOL OF FANTASY--ONLY TO FIND THAT ONCE CAUGHT, I COULD NOT ESCAPE, BUT WAS DRAWN INEXORABLY DEEPER TO MY OWN SELF-MADE DESTRUCTION!

Dear Diary:

Do you know what it's like to always be the wallflower--the unnoticed one, while the other girls flaunt wealth or beauty to outshine you? My own shyness was the wall that barred me from the outside world!

WHAT'S THE USE OF COMING TO THESE THINGS? THERE'S NOTHING HERE BUT HEARTBREAK FOR ME! IF ONLY I HAD SOMETHING SPECIAL TO MAKE ME STAND OUT!

And to make my lot even more bitter, there was Alan Stoddard, the boy in town, whom I secretly adored--and who looked right through me every time we met!

HELLO, ALAN, I--OH!

DIARY LOVES

I CAN'T STAND IT! I'M JUST A NONENTITY! THERE MUST BE SOMETHING I CAN DO TO MAKE HIM NOTICE ME! THERE *MUST* BE! THEY SAY THAT ALAN HAS HOPES OF GETTING INTO THE MOVIES -- IF ONLY I KNEW SOMEONE FAMOUS ---



And finally, a plan was woven out of my desperation!



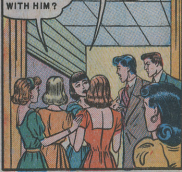
THAT'S IT! I COULD SAY THAT I'M A GOOD FRIEND OF BRUCE FLAGG, THE MOVIE STAR! NO ONE COULD PROVE I'M NOT, AND I'LL BET THAT WOULD MAKE HIM SIT UP AND TAKE NOTICE OF ME!



At the next party, I just casually let it be known that I had known Bruce Flagg when we were children!

HOW THRILLING, JANE! DO YOU STILL CORRESPOND WITH HIM?

OF COURSE I DO! WHY, I JUST RECEIVED A LETTER FROM BRUCE LAST WEEK!



YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD US YOU KNEW--ER, THAT IS, WE'LL HAVE TO SEE A LOT OF EACH OTHER, JANE!

I DON'T CARE WHY HE ASKED FOR A DATE! THE IMPORTANT THING IS, HE *DID*!

My guess was right! Before half the evening was over, Alan said he wanted to take me home, and when he asked for a date, my heart leaped with joy!



I continued to live my life, and was lulled into security by Alan's growing interest!

DO YOU LIKE MY HAIR--DO TONIGHT, ALAN? IT'S BRUCE'S FAVORITE STYLE FOR ME!

CERTAINLY, JANE! I NEVER REALIZED HOW LOVELY YOU ARE!



B--BUT HE MIGHT BE TOO BUSY AND---

NOW, NOW! NO FAIR TRYING TO KEEP HIM ALL TO YOURSELF! HE'LL BE INTOWN FOR TWO WEEKS, AND AS HIS HOSTESS, YOU'LL HAVE TO ENTERTAIN A LITTLE BIT FOR HIM!

HOSTESS? OH, WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? I'LL BE THE LAUGHING STOCK OF THE TOWN WHEN HE ARRIVES AND DOESN'T KNOW ME!



But a few days later, I had a shock--and I could picture my new romance fizzling out when the whole town learned the truth about me!

LOOK, JANE! YOUR FRIEND, BRUCE FLAGG, IS GOING TO BE IN TOWN NEXT WEEK FOR A PERSONAL APPEARANCE! GOSH, AREN'T YOU HAPPY?

THE GANG JUST CAN'T WAIT TO MEET HIM! YOU'LL HAVE TO HAVE US OVER TO YOUR HOUSE AT LEAST ONCE, JANE!



Every night for a week, I lay awake trying to think up some way out of my lie--but it was no use!

THIS MEANS I WILL LOSE ALAN! ONCE HE FINDS OUT THAT I'VE BEEN FOOLING HIM, I'M LOST! *308*

And before I knew it, the big day arrived! The whole town was there to meet Bruce Flagg's train and, exhausted with worry, I was pushed forward to greet him!

WELCOME BRUCE!

WELCOME TO BENFORD, MR. FLAGG! YOUR PUBLICITY DEPARTMENT MADE HOTEL RESERVATIONS FOR YOU BUT WE CANCELLED THEM WHEN WE HEARD THAT YOU'RE STAYING WITH FRIENDS HERE! IF THERE'S ANYTHING WE CAN DO TO MAKE YOUR STAY MORE PLEASURABLE.

UH--HELLO, BRUCE! HOW HAVE YOU BEEN? WE--ER, HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER IN SUCH A LONG TIME!

For a moment, Bruce Flagg lifted his eyebrows quizzically, but he must have read the plea in my eyes--because he smiled warmly and took my arm!

IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME, HASN'T IT?

WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO COME HOME NOW AND REST? YOU--UH, MUST HAVE HAD A HARD TRIP!

I wondered just how far he would let my hoax go--and my knees went weak with relief when he winked and entered a cab with me!

IF I'M GOING HOME WITH YOU, HADN'T I BETTER KNOW YOUR NAME, MISS--?

JANE ORCUTT! OH, MR. FLAGG, I HARDLY KNOW HOW TO EXPLAIN ALL THIS! I--I LIED AND TOLD EVERYONE I KNEW YOU AND I DIDN'T DARE BACK DOWN WHEN YOU CAME TO TOWN!

WELL, THIS ISN'T EXACTLY WHAT I HAD PLANNED, BUT I GUESS WE CAN FIGURE OUT SOME WORKABLE ARRANGEMENT!

IF ONLY YOU COULD SEE YOUR WAY CLEAR TO STRINGING ALONG WITH ME FOR A FEW DAYS, I'D BE ETERNALLY GRATEFUL!

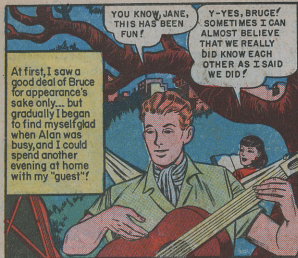
WHO'S THE LUCKY MAN FOR WHOSE BENEFIT WE'RE DOING ALL THIS? THERE IS A MAN IN BACK OF IT, ISN'T THERE?

Y-YES, YOU'RE RIGHT! IT'S ALAN STODDARD! YOU MET HIM AT THE STATION!

Although Bruce Flagg was a total stranger, I found it easy to talk to him, and before I knew it I told him everything!

H-M-M! THIS STODDARD FELLOW MUST REALLY BE SOMETHING TO RATE ALL THIS! I HOPE HE'S WORTH IT, JANE!

OH, HE IS! IT'S JUST THAT HE'S IMPRESSED BY GLAMOUR AND I HAD TO BORROW SOME TO MAKE HIM NOTICE ME!



At first, I saw a good deal of Bruce for appearance's sake only... but gradually I began to find myself glad when Alan was busy, and I could spend another evening at home with my "guest"!

YOU KNOW, JANE, THIS HAS BEEN FUN!

Y-YES, BRUCE! SOMETIMES I CAN ALMOST BELIEVE THAT WE REALLY DID KNOW EACH OTHER AS I SAID WE DID!

It amazed me to see how well Bruce fit into the pattern of ordinary everyday life! Even Mother and Dad thought he was just a wonderful boy!

OH, BRUCE, YOU DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE YOUR STAYING HERE! BUT HOW BORED YOU MUST BE WITH OUR UNEVENTFUL LIVES!

BORED? ME? SAY, WHAT DO YOU THINK I DO AT HOME? STAYING HERE WITH YOUR FAMILY HAS BEEN A TREAT!



WELL, YOUR LIFE IS ALL EXCITEMENT -- AFTER ALL, YOU'RE A FAMOUS STAR!

LOOK, JANE, ACTORS, LIKE OTHER PEOPLE, COME IN ALL VARIETIES-- I'M THE PLAIN KIND! GLAMOUR IS OKAY-- IN ITS PLACE!



Unaccountably, I felt confused and unhappy! Bruce's level glance held my eyes, and for a moment I was carried away by a wave of tenderness that I couldn't explain!

SOMETIMES I WISH--

WHAT DO YOU WISH, JANE? TELL ME!



NO! NO! I--I'M LUCKY TO HAVE ALAN, I KNOW I AM! THERE ISN'T A GIRL IN TOWN WHO DOESN'T ENVY ME!

THEN MY TIMING WAS PRETTY GOOD, I LEAVE TOMORROW AND YOU'RE BOUND TO HAVE ALAN'S PROPOSAL TONIGHT! OKAY?

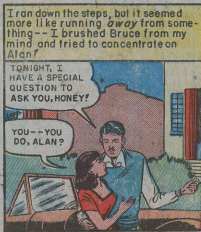


Bruce's question was suddenly vanquished by the raucous sound of Alan's car horn!

BRUCE, I--I'D BETTER GO!

YES, JANE, DON'T BE LATE TO YOUR OWN PROPOSAL!

HONK!



I ran down the steps, but it seemed more like running *away* from something-- I brushed Bruce from my mind and tried to concentrate on Alan!

TONIGHT, I HAVE A SPECIAL QUESTION TO ASK YOU, HONEY!

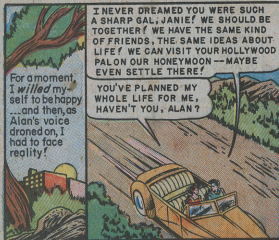
YOU--YOU DO, ALAN?



This was the climax-- the magic words I had waited for that would fill me with undreamed of happiness!

YOU MUST KNOW WHAT IT IS, JANE! I WANT YOU TO MARRY ME! WE WERE MEANT FOR EACH OTHER!

ALAN, I--



For a moment, I *willed* myself to be happy ... and then, as Alan's voice droned on, I had to face reality!

I NEVER DREAMED YOU WERE SUCH A SHARP GAL, JANIE! WE SHOULD BE TOGETHER! WE HAVE THE SAME KIND OF FRIENDS, THE SAME IDEAS ABOUT LIFE! WE CAN VISIT YOUR HOLLYWOOD PALON OUR HONEYMOON -- MAYBE EVEN SETTLE THERE!

YOU'VE PLANNED MY WHOLE LIFE FOR ME, HAVEN'T YOU, ALAN?



SURE! WHY NOT? I'VE FIGURED IT ALL OUT! WITH YOUR CONNECTIONS AND MY LOOKS, WE'LL REALLY GO PLACES!

I SEE!

For the first time, I really *did* see! I could envision my whole life with Alan as a perpetual masquerade, with me constantly striving for additional glamour to appease him!

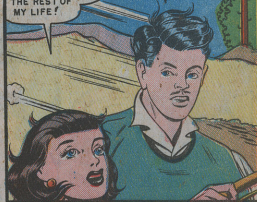
TURN THE CAR AROUND, ALAN! YOU'LL HAVE TO FIND SOMEONE ELSE TO PLAY YOUR LEADING LADY! THIS PART'S TOO MUCH FOR ME!

WHA--? YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME! WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?

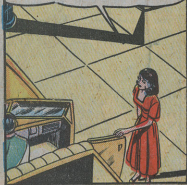


I DON'T WANT TO REACH FOR THE MOON, ALAN! I JUST WANT TO BE HAPPY! I COULD NOT GO ON PRETENDING LIKE THIS FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE!

WHY, YOU LITTLE CHEAT! I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO WASTE MY TIME ON A WORTHLESS LITTLE WALLFLOWER!



ALAN, TWO MONTHS AGO IT WOULD HAVE KILLED ME TO ADMIT THIS -- BUT SOMEHOW NOW, IT DOESN'T MATTER! YOU'RE RIGHT, I *AM* JUST A WALLFLOWER! BUT THE EVENING'S YOUNG -- MAYBE YOU CAN STILL GET ANOTHER DATE!



I watched Alan drive off, and waited for the desperate sense of loss that should have followed -- but strangely didn't!

WELL, I FLUFFED THAT ONE ALL RIGHT! WHAT'S THAT OLD SAYING? YOU CAN'T MAKE A SILK PURSE OUT OF A SOW'S EAR!

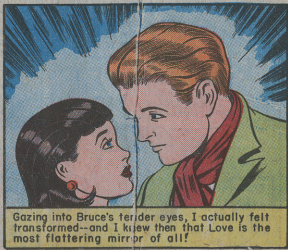
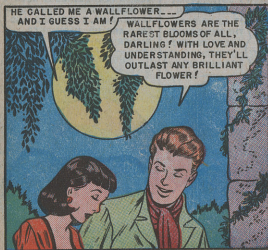


But suddenly from behind me, I heard a familiar voice!

IF YOU'RE GOING IN FOR PROVERBS, HOW ABOUT THE ONE THAT GOES, ONE MAN'S LOSS IS ANOTHER MAN'S GAIN?

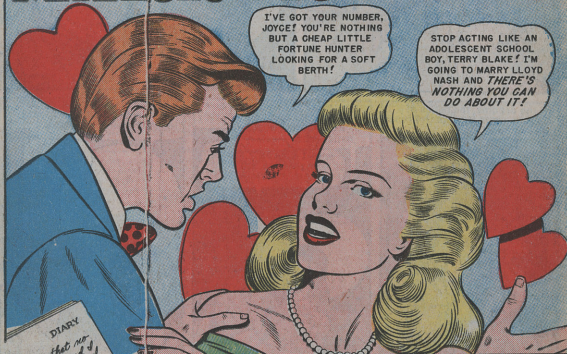
BRUCE! I -- I'M AFRAID I'VE WASTED ALL YOUR GOOD TIME FOR NOTHING!





When I made up my mind to marry the boss, I said goodbye to my dreams! From then on my knight in shining armor would wear a dollar sign on his coat of arms! But my troubles began when I made the mistake of vowing I'd

NEVER MARRY for LOVE



I'VE GOT YOUR NUMBER, JOYCE! YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A CHEAP LITTLE FORTUNE HUNTER LOOKING FOR A SOFT BERTH!

STOP ACTING LIKE AN ADOLESCENT SCHOOL BOY, TERRY BLAKE! I'M GOING TO MARRY LLOYD NASH AND *THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT!*

DIARY

It seems that no matter how hard I can't save a cent! Something is always coming up! Like today, for instance...

MOTHER! I HAD TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS IN HERE AND EVERY CENT IS GONE!

I KNOW, DEAR! I HAD TO TAKE IT! SINCE YOUR FATHER DIED, THERE JUST HASN'T BEEN ENOUGH MONEY...

BUT YOU KNEW I WAS GOING TO USE THAT MONEY AS A DEPOSIT ON A FUR COAT! I'VE BEEN SAVING FOR MONTHS!

JOYCE DEAR, I'LL RETURN IT AS SOON AS THE INSURANCE CHECK COMES! BUT MEANWHILE...

MEANWHILE I'LL JUST KEEP ON WORKING FOR NASH INDUSTRIES UNTIL I GET OLD AND GRAY AND MR. NASH GETS RICHER AND FATTER!

HUSH, DARLING! LLOYD NASH IS AS FINE A MAN TO WORK FOR AS YOU'LL FIND ANYWHERE!



DIARY LOVES

IT'S TOO BAD YOU DIDN'T THINK SO MUCH OF MR. NASH TWENTY YEARS AGO! IF YOU HAD MARRIED HIM INSTEAD OF RUNNING OFF WITH DAD, I'D BE THE OWNER'S DAUGHTER NOW INSTEAD OF JUST A NUMBER ON A TIME CARD!

I LIKED AND RESPECTED LLOYD NASH, BUT IT WAS YOUR FATHER I LOVED, JOYCE! I NEVER REGRETTED MY MARRIAGE TO TOM LANGTON!



I ONLY HOPE, DEAR, THAT SOME DAY YOU'LL HAVE THE GOOD FORTUNE TO LOVE A GOOD MAN AS MUCH AS I DID YOUR FATHER!

WELL, IF HE DOESN'T HAVE A BANKROLL, HE CAN JUST KNOCK ON SOMEONE ELSE'S DOOR! I'M NOT GOING TO MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE YOU DID!



One look at Mom's stricken face made me realize I had gone too far!

OH, MOMS, I DIDN'T MEAN THAT! I LOVED DADDY WITH ALL MY HEART...YOU KNOW I DID!

OF COURSE YOU DID, DARLING! I...I UNDERSTAND!



But does she understand? Moms just can't know how much I hate living this way, every waking moment spent trying to earn enough just to get along, with never a cent left over for the things a girl really wants!



GOOD MORNING, JOYCE!

WHAT'S GOOD ABOUT IT, I'D LIKE TO KNOW?



I like Terry well enough, but this morning he just rubbed me the wrong way! Good, honest, hard working Terry Blake! He'd make a swell husband for some girl... if she'd be willing to spend her life raising a brood of kids on a factory worker's wages!

UH...OH! I GUESS THIS ISN'T THE RIGHT TIME TO PUT THE BEE ON YOU, BUT WE'RE ALL CHIPPING IN FOR A WELCOME HOME PARTY FOR OLD MAN NASH TONIGHT! HOW MUCH CAN I PUT YOU DOWN FOR?

EXACTLY NOTHING, TERRY! I'M FLAT! AND EVEN IF I WEREN'T, WHY SHOULD I PART WITH MY HARD-EARNED MONEY TO FINANCE A PARTY FOR THE BOSS? I NEVER EVEN MET THE GUY!



THAT'S RIGHT, YOU HAVEN'T! HE'S BEEN AWAY EVER SINCE YOU CAME TO WORK HERE! BUT EVERYBODY HERE THINKS THE WORLD OF LLOYD NASH! TELL YOU WHAT, I'LL LAY OUT A BUCK FOR YOU UNTIL PAY DAY!

OH, ALL RIGHT! YOU WIN! BUT I'M WARNING YOU, I BETTER GET MY MONEY'S WORTH AT THAT PARTY!



In spite of my ill humor, I found myself caught up in the general excitement! Before I knew it, I was pitching in with the rest, getting ready for the welcome home party!



IS EVERYTHING READY?

HE'S COMING NOW! HERE'S MR. NASH!



I felt a shock of pleased surprise as I looked at Lloyd Nash! Without even thinking about it, I had taken it for granted that he would be old and paunchy!

MR. NASH, THIS IS JOYCE LANGTON, ONE OF YOUR NEW EMPLOYEES!

WHY, OF COURSE, YOU MUST BE MARY LANGTON'S DAUGHTER! YOU LOOK EXACTLY LIKE SHE DID AT YOUR AGE! YOUR MOTHER WAS A VERY BEAUTIFUL WOMAN, JOYCE!



THIS MUSIC IS TOO GOOD TO MISS, JOYCE! WHAT SAY WE DANCE AND LET MR. NASH MAKE THE ROUNDS?

NOT SO FAST, TERRY! AS GUEST OF HONOR I BELIEVE I SHOULD HAVE THE FIRST CHOICE OF DANCING PARTNERS!

WILL YOU ALLOW ME, MISS LANGTON?



OKAY, BOSS! SHE'S YOURS...FOR THIS DANCE! BUT SAVE THE REST OF THEM FOR ME, JOYCE!



I HOPE I HAVEN'T STEPPED ON TERRY'S TOES BY WHISKING YOU AWAY LIKE THIS!

NOT AT ALL, MR. NASH! THERE'S NOTHING BETWEEN TERRY AND ME! WE JUST HAPPEN TO WORK TOGETHER, THAT'S ALL!



I was furious with Terry for giving Mr. Nash the wrong impression about us, and at the same time flattered by the boss' obvious interest in me! I could feel the envious glances of the other girls as we slowly circled the room!

WELL, AS LONG AS I'M NOT BREAKING UP ANY ROMANCE, I THINK I'LL CLAIM ANOTHER DANCE...WITH YOUR PERMISSION, OF COURSE!

YOU CAN HAVE AS MANY DANCES AS YOU LIKE, MR. NASH, AND I HOPE YOU'LL TAKE A LOT!



Next day... YOU SURE MADE A HIT AT THE PARTY LAST NIGHT, JOYCE! ALL THE GIRLS ARE JEALOUS BECAUSE THE BOSS TOOK YOU HOME! BUT NOW THAT IT'S BUSINESS AS USUAL, HOW ABOUT OUR TAKING IN AN EARLY SHOW TONIGHT AT THE STRAND?



SORRY, TERRY, I'M ALL IN! ASK ME SOME OTHER TIME, WILL YOU?

THAT'S ONE THING YOU KNOW YOU CAN DEPEND ON, JOYCE! I'D TAKE YOU OUT EVERY NIGHT IF YOU'D ONLY LET ME!



JOYCE, MR. NASH WANTS YOU IN HIS OFFICE RIGHT AWAY!

STOP LOOKING AFTER HER WITH THOSE CALF EYES, TERRY! I HAVE A FEELING LITTLE JOYCE WILL BE OUT FOR BIGGER GAME FROM NOW ON!



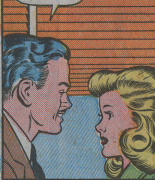
With pounding heart I hurried upstairs, a dozen unanswered questions fluttering through my mind! What could Mr. Nash want?

I'VE DECIDED TO TAKE YOU OUT OF THE SHOP, JOYCE, AND PUT YOU INTO THE OFFICE! HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE MY SECRETARY?

SECRETARY? GULP! I...I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING MORE THRILLING THAN WORKING WITH YOU, MR. NASH! WHEN DO I START?



JUST AS SOON AS YOU CHANGE INTO SOMETHING MORE SUITABLE FOR AN OFFICE! AND IF YOU'RE NOT TOO TIRED AFTER LAST NIGHT, WE CAN TALK THE WHOLE THING OVER AT DINNER TONIGHT!



I could scarcely contain my excitement! In my wildest dreams I had never expected a break like this! And it was plain that Mr. Nash's interest in me was more than just business! This could be my golden opportunity... if I played my cards right!

THIS IS WHERE THE SPECIAL ORDERS ARE KEPT, AND HERE ARE MY PERSONAL FILES!

YES, MR. NASH MAY NOT BE SO YOUNG, BUT HE'S AWFULLY FASCINATING! AND WHAT IF HE IS A LITTLE OLD FOR ME? A MILLION DOLLARS CAN OVERCOME A LOT OF BARRIERS!



THAT LANGTON DAME IS A FAST WORKER, ALL RIGHT!

GUESS TERRY BLAKE WILL TAKE A BACK SEAT FROM NOW ON! CAN'T EXPECT TO COMPETE WITH THE BOSS!



DIARY
We had dinner with all the trimmings at the exclusive Circle Club tonight! The bill must have been almost as much as Terry makes in a week! That's the kind of place I mean to go to from now on -- no more one-arm grants for me!



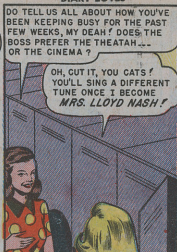
I was both pleased and annoyed at the attention I was getting as we left the factory... pleased because it made me feel important, annoyed at the pained look in Terry's eyes!

DIARY LOVES



WELL, LOOK WHO'S HERE! LADY JOYCE HERSELF! SHALL I CALL YOUR CARRIAGE, M'LADY?

DON'T BOTHER, MAISIE! THE BOSS IS PROBABLY TAKING HER HOME IN HIS LIMOUSINE!



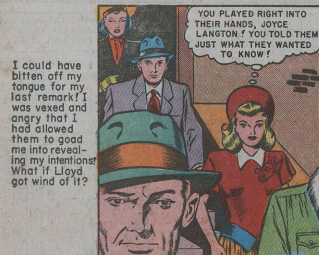
DO TELL US ALL ABOUT HOW YOU'VE BEEN KEEPING BUSY FOR THE PAST FEW WEEKS, MY DEAH! DOES THE BOSS PREFER THE THEATRE... OR THE CINEMA?

OH, CUT IT, YOU CATS! YOU'LL SING A DIFFERENT TUNE ONCE I BECOME MRS. LLOYD NASH!



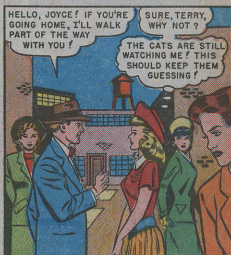
SO THAT'S HER GAME? SHE SURE IS BRAZEN ABOUT IT!

NO WONDER SHE'S BEEN GIVING POOR TERRY THE FROST!



I could have bitten off my tongue for my last remark! I was vexed and angry that I had allowed them to goad me into revealing my intentions! What if Lloyd got wind of it?

YOU PLAYED RIGHT INTO THEIR HANDS, JOYCE LANGTON! YOU TOLD THEM JUST WHAT THEY WANTED TO KNOW!



HELLO, JOYCE! IF YOU'RE GOING HOME, I'LL WALK WITH YOU!

SURE, TERRY, WHY NOT?

THE CATS ARE STILL WATCHING ME! THIS SHOULD KEEP THEM GUESSING!

Terry didn't leave me when we came to his corner! Instead he took me right up to my door!



THANKS FOR GOING OUT OF YOUR WAY, TERRY! I'VE GOT TO GO IN NOW! SUPPER'S READY!

WHY, GOOD EVENING, TERRY! YOU'VE BEEN QUITE A STRANGER LATELY! HOW ABOUT TAKING POT LUCK WITH US AND STAYING FOR SUPPER TONIGHT?

Why did Mother have to invite Terry for supper without consulting me first? I had a date with Lloyd and wanted time to take a bath and change before he came!



PERHAPS TERRY WOULD RATHER COME ANOTHER NIGHT WHEN WE HAVE SOMETHING SPECIAL, MOTHER!

DON'T TRY TO TALK ME OUT OF MY INVITATION, JOYCE! YOUR MOTHER ASKED ME FOR TONIGHT AND I'M ACCEPTING!

I HOPE YOU KIDS WON'T MIND IF I RUN OUT ON YOU? THE LADIES' AID SOCIETY MEETS TONIGHT, AND I HAVE JUST TEN MINUTES TO MAKE IT!

YOU JUST RUN ALONG, MRS. LANGTON! JOYCE AND I WILL DO THE DISHES!



WHAT'S MOMS TRYING TO DO... PLAY CUPID? THE LADIES' AID MEETS ON FRIDAYS AND THIS IS WEDNESDAY!

COME ON, JOYCE, YOU WASH AND I'LL DRY!



I fought against the magnetic something that always sprang up between Terry and me when we were together! He felt it too, I knew!

THIS IS LIKE OLD TIMES, JOYCE! LET'S SIT ON THE PORCH LATER AND LOOK AT THE STARS THE WAY WE USED TO!

I...I'M SORRY, TERRY, BUT I HAVE NO TIME FOR STAR GAZING TONIGHT! I HOPE YOU'LL EXCUSE ME!

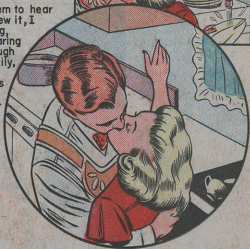


WHAT'S HAPPENED TO US, JOYCE? THINGS USED TO BE SO DIFFERENT! FOR A WHILE I EVEN HOPED---

NOW LET'S NOT SPOIL EVERYTHING AND GET SENTIMENTAL, TERRY!

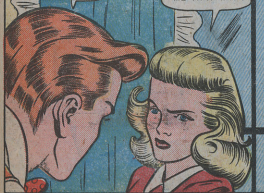


Terry didn't seem to hear me! Before I knew it, I was in his strong young arms! Searing flame shot through me as, involuntarily, I felt myself responding to his ardent, passionate kisses... responding until every fiber of my being cried out with longing to be one with this man...to never let him go!



I WAS NEVER GOOD AT TALKING, JOYCE? I...I GUESS THAT EXPLAINS BETTER HOW I FEEL ABOUT YOU!

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT, TERRY! YOU... YOU HAD NO RIGHT TO KISS ME THAT WAY!

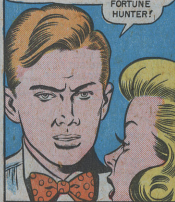


YOU DIDN'T ACT AS THOUGH YOU DIDN'T WANT ME TO KISS YOU? DON'T YOU REALIZE YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH ME, JOYCE? WHY ARE YOU FIGHTING IT SO?

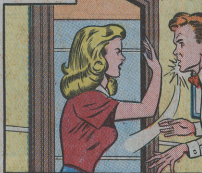
I'M FIGHTING IT BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO BE TRAPPED ---TRAPPED BY A FEW KISSES INTO A LIFE OF WANT AND MISERY! I DON'T WANT THE KIND OF LIFE YOU CAN GIVE ME, TERRY... THE KIND MY MOTHER HAD!



SO ALL THAT GOSSIP ABOUT YOU MAKING A PLAY FOR THE BOSS IS TRUE? WHAT DOES LOVE MEAN TO A GIRL LIKE YOU? YOU'RE JUST A CHEAP, SCHEMING LITTLE FORTUNE HUNTER!



The stinging truth cut me to the quick... and with it came a blinding, unreasoning surge of anger!



HOW DARE YOU SPEAK TO ME LIKE THAT? GET OUT OF HERE! GET OUT!

THE TRUTH HURTS, DOESN'T IT, JOYCE? WELL, DON'T WORRY, I WON'T BOTHER YOU AGAIN!



My head whirled in a dizzy spin of confusion! Pride, anger, humiliation, all fought a battle to reach the surface of my consciousness! And somewhere, way underneath, a small, puny voice that was my love for Terry tried to make itself heard! But it was useless!



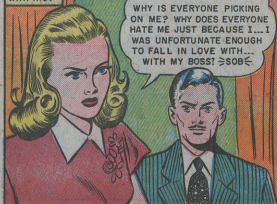
LLOYD MUSTN'T FIND ME THIS WAY! \equiv SNIFF \equiv I MUST PULL MYSELF TOGETHER!

JOYCE, I JUST MET TERRY BLAKE THUNDERING OUT OF YOUR FRONT WALK! IS ANYTHING WRONG?



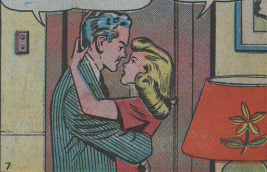
DON'T MIND TERRY, LLOYD! HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT BY AND BY! HE'S JUST SUFFERING FROM A CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY, THAT'S ALL!

I couldn't afford to wait for events to run their course! I had to take matters into my own hands... make my own fate, before fate did what it wanted with me!



WHY IS EVERYONE PICKING ON ME? WHY DOES EVERYONE HATE ME JUST BECAUSE I... I WAS UNFORTUNATE ENOUGH TO FALL IN LOVE WITH... WITH MY BOSS? \equiv SOB \equiv

JOYCE DARLING, THERE'S NOTHING UNFORTUNATE ABOUT THAT! YOU'VE JUST MADE ME A VERY HAPPY MAN! I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH YOU TOO, BUT I WAS AFRAID THE DIFFERENCE IN OUR YEARS...



THAT ISN'T IMPORTANT, DARLING! WE'LL MAKE A SUCCESS OF OUR MARRIAGE! WE'LL SHOW 'EM!

DIARY LOVES

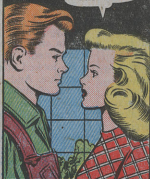
I could tell by the sudden silence that greeted me when I walked through the factory a few days later that the news had already leaked out!

GOOD! NOW PERHAPS THEY'LL STOP ALL THIS MALICIOUS GOSSIP ABOUT ME! ANYWAY, I'LL SAY GOOD-BYE TO THIS PLACE FOREVER SOON, SO WHY SHOULD I CARE?



I SAW THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF YOUR ENGAGEMENT, JOYCE! I HOPE YOU'LL BE VERY HAPPY!

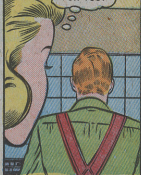
THANKS, TERRY... I...



We looked at each other a long moment before Terry abruptly turned away, muttering something about having to get back to his machine! His eyes had the dazed, unhappy look of a hurt, puzzled child!



YOU'D BETTER STAY UP IN THE OFFICE WHERE YOU BELONG, JOYCE LANGTON! RUNNING INTO TERRY LIKE THIS ISN'T GOOD FOR YOU!



Suddenly all thoughts of myself were wrenched from me, as in a blinding flash...

TERRY! LOOK OUT!



HIS SLEEVE IS CAUGHT IN THE GEARS!

PULL THE SWITCH, SOMEBODY!



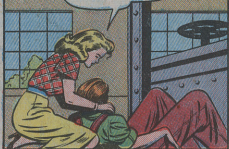
SCREEECH!

HE WASN'T WATCHING HIS MACHINE!

HE'LL BE OKAY IN A COUPLE OF MINUTES!

IT WAS LUCKY THEY CUT THE POWER OFF IN TIME!

OH, TERRY DARLING! SPEAK TO ME! SOB OH... OH... I DID THIS TO HIM!



YOU'RE ALL RIGHT! THANK HEAVEN, YOU'RE ALL RIGHT! OH, TERRY, SAY YOU'LL FORGIVE ME! I LOVE YOU SO, DARLING!

THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN WANTING TO HEAR EVER SINCE I'VE KNOWN YOU, HONEY!



We had a beautiful wedding... everyone turned out to wish us luck! I know now how impossible life would have been for me with anyone but Terry! I'm thankful I found out in time!



BLESS THEM! AS LONG AS MY CHILDREN ARE HAPPY, I WON'T MIND BEING ALONE!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE ALONE, MARY! I KNOW NOW IT WAS ALWAYS YOU I SAW WHENEVER I LOOKED AT JOYCE! CAN'T WE TAKE UP FROM WHERE WE LEFT OFF TWENTY YEARS AGO?



DAY AFTER DAY

Tuesday—Yesterday's quarrel was a silly one—maybe some of the fault was on my side, and I was ready to say so. But not Felix! He telephoned to say that I needn't expect him to take me to the Assembly Ball because he was taking Rhoda Foster. All right—if he's going to be like that, he can be like that. I'm not sorry. I'm glad my eyes were opened in time. I won't be lonely, I won't be neglected. I wouldn't take Felix back as a gift . . . may heaven forgive me for that lie!

Wednesday—Three hours before Assembly Ball time, Bob Nolan came to the house. Not a word about Felix dating Rhoda, though all the crowd thought she and Bob were a steady thing. He asked me if I'd go to the Ball with him. I might have declined, but there was a chance to show Felix that I wasn't sitting at home. I accepted at once, and I didn't have a completely miserable time. Bob's good looking, a fine dancer, with wonderful manners. I fought to keep from watching Felix and Rhoda stepping it out, and sitting it out. So did Bob. He's hurt, like me; like me, he refuses to show it.

Thursday—Bob dropped by for a moment. "Sue," he said, "we were fairly successful last night, and I think we made something of an effect. Rhoda and I quarrelled—so did you and your boy friend. They think they'll make us miserable by going out together. Let's turn the tables on them."

Of course we can. Bob and I will appear in public together—pretend to be wrapped up in each other. That will bring Rhoda back to him, and Felix back to me.

Friday—The Chadwicks had a picnic party today, and I went with Bob. Felix and Rhoda were there. They looked a little defiant, paid special attention to each other. You'd think Bob and I had walked out on them! Felix even showed off, or tried to. Wanted to wrestle, and threw Lane Walker. Everybody was surprised; Lane's a rugged specimen. Then Felix challenged Bob, who threw him in about five minutes, without even musing his necktie. Rhoda's eyes shone as she watched Bob win. At least he's making his point with his lost love—but what about me?

Saturday—Bob came by at noon, to take me driving. "Where?" I asked. "Nowhere in particular," he replied, and we went spinning off along the Outer Boulevard, through the park, past the golf links, and so on. We talked. We found lots of things worth talking about. Finally we had dinner, and it was fairly late when we came home.

"Bob," I said suddenly, "it just struck me that we didn't show ourselves to Felix and Rhoda anywhere. I hope you don't feel the day was wasted."

He looked at me strangely. "No, I didn't feel that, Sue. And it was refreshing, in a way, to be out of sight of that couple."

As soon as he spoke, I agreed.

Sunday—Sang in the choir at church. Felix in the baritone section, as usual. I thought he was going to fall into step beside me, as usual, and he almost did—out of habit, I suppose. But outside the church, Bob was waiting to see me home. Dad invited him to Sunday dinner. The two of them talked about fishing and baseball most of the afternoon. I felt a little neglected. Mother came to say that Felix was telephoning. "Tell him I'm not at home," I said, then wondered why I said that.

Monday—Quiet day, and quiet evening. But Felix telephoned, and this time I answered. He said he wanted to see me tomorrow. After I hung up, the phone rang again. It was Bob. He just wanted to tell me "good-night." Not much of a conversation, but I felt my heart racing like a motorcycle.

Tuesday—It's all over. Really over, this time.

Felix came to the house last night. He said he wanted to apologize. He'd been miserable without me. I reminded him that he could have made up a week ago. He admitted he'd been trying to "show" me. Wouldn't I forget and forgive? I asked if Rhoda had lost her glamor, and he came out with it. She'd refused to give him a date last night, said she was going to make a peace offer to Bob.

As gently as possible, I said that I couldn't make up my mind, but it was made up. No Felix for me. Not even if he had come for real love of me, instead of in pique because Rhoda had slighted him.

Wednesday—Did I say it was all over? No—it's only begun!

Bob came to the house early this evening. Rhoda had hauled down her flag, wanted by-gones to be by-gones. Bob couldn't see it that way.

"All of a sudden, Sue, I realized that she meant nothing to me. It was you," he insisted. "I'm glad for that quarrel that busted Rhoda and me. I'll be gladder still, if you'll set a date."

And I did, I did!

Later, when we went out to the movie, Rhoda and Felix were there together. They smiled and waved. Apparently they're making a go of it, too. So all's well that ends well.

I ALWAYS BELIEVED IF I WANTED ANYTHING BADLY ENOUGH I'D FIND A WAY TO GET IT...AND I WANTED CHAD JUSTIN! IT DIDN'T MATTER TO ME THAT HE BELONGED TO ANOTHER GIRL! I TOOK LOVE WHERE I FOUND IT, RESPECTING NO ONE'S RIGHTS, RECOGNIZING NO "KEEP OFF" SIGNS! BUT THE TIME CAME WHEN THE TABLES WERE TURNED, AND THE MAN I LOVED CAST ME ASIDE, BECAUSE

My KISSES Were CHEAP

Justin Brothers IMPORTERS

I LOVE YOU, AVIS, BUT I WOULDN'T HAVE YOU IF YOU WERE THE LAST WOMAN ON EARTH!



Diary:

This is my red letter day! In a little while I'll see Chad Justin again! Four months is a long time to be separated from the man you love!

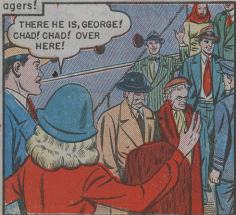
AVIS PARKER! AREN'T YOU READY YET? THE BOAT DOCKS IN JUST HALF AN HOUR!

I'VE BEEN READY FOR AGES, GEORGE! JUST FIDDLING AROUND WITH ODDS AND ENDS, WAITING FOR YOU!

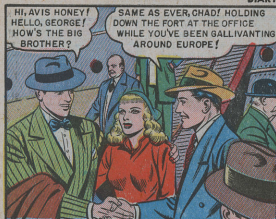


I could scarcely conceal my eager anticipation as I strained my eyes to find Chad's beloved, familiar figure in the crowd of returning voyagers!

THERE HE IS, GEORGE! CHAD! CHAD! OVER HERE!



DIARY LOVES



HI, AVIS HONEY!
HELLO, GEORGE!
HOW'S THE BIG
BROTHER?

SAME AS EVER, CHAD! HOLDING
DOWN THE FORT AT THE OFFICE
WHILE YOU'VE BEEN GALLIVANTING
AROUND EUROPE!

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF
A GUY LIKE THAT, AVIS?
I SPEND ALL MY TIME
MAKING NEW CONTACTS
AND BUYING UP MERCHAN-
DISE, WHILE GEORGE TAKES
IT EASY AT HOME! WHAT'S
HE GOT TO COMPLAIN
ABOUT?

ON THE
CONTRARY,
I'VE BEEN
PERFECTLY
HAPPY AT
THE OFFICE
WITH AVIS
ALL TO
MYSELF!

There was something about Chad's carefully casual banter that made me feel uneasy! As if he were keeping something back! A pin-prick of apprehension reached out and broke through the bubble of my happy day-dreaming!



BETTER DECLARE
EVERYTHING, CHAD!
DON'T WANT YOU
TO BE ARRESTED
FOR SMUGGLING!

DON'T WORRY! THE
ONLY THING
I'VE BEEN
HIDING IS
SOME NEWS THE
CUSTOMS OFFICE
WON'T BE INTERESTED
IN! BUT I GUESS NOW'S
AS GOOD A TIME AS ANY
TO BREAK IT! I'M EN-
GAGED TO BE
MARRIED!

I stood stunned, unable to speak! Chad, my Chad, engaged to another girl! Waves of shock and despair rolled over me as I stood as in a trance!



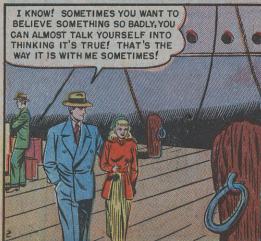
CHAD, OLD MAN,
CONGRATULATIONS!
WHO'S THE GIRL?
WHY DIDN'T YOU
LET US KNOW?

I WANTED IT
TO BE A SURPRISE!
HER NAME IS
LOUISE ARDEN!
I'LL TELL YOU
ALL ABOUT HER AS
SOON AS I GET FINISHED
HERE!



TAKE IT EASY, KID!
PULL YOURSELF
TOGETHER!

I GUESS I
REALLY
HAVEN'T ANY
RIGHT TO BE SO
DISAPPOINTED!
CHAD'S NEVER SAID HE
LOVED ME... NOT IN SO
MANY WORDS! BUT I'VE
BEEN IN LOVE WITH HIM
SO LONG, I THOUGHT
THAT HE...



I KNOW! SOMETIMES YOU WANT TO
BELIEVE SOMETHING SO BADLY, YOU
CAN ALMOST TALK YOURSELF INTO
THINKING IT'S TRUE! THAT'S THE
WAY IT IS WITH ME SOMETIMES!

Looking back, I saw that George was right! All my hopes had been colored by the intensity of my own desires! Through the chilled, numbing haze of my realization, I heard Chad talking gaily...



LOUISE COMES FROM CHICAGO, BUT
I HAD TO GO ALL THE WAY TO PARIS
TO FIND HER! SHE'LL ARRIVE IN A
FEW WEEKS, AND THEN WE'LL
BE MARRIED!

DIARY LOVES

I couldn't wait until I got home to throw myself on my bed! I lay there for hours, sobbing until I was worn and spent... an empty shell, too exhausted to move! But the numbed despair soon lifted and I was able to think clearly again!

IT'S NOT FAIR! SOB! I'VE LOVED CHAD FOR YEARS, AND NOW THIS PERFECT STRANGER COMES ALONG AND STEAL HIM FROM RIGHT UNDER MY NOSE!



I STILL HAVE A FEW WEEKS BEFORE SHE GETS HOME! I'LL MAKE CHAD REALIZE IT'S ME HE REALLY LOVES! THAT IT WAS JUST THE GLAMOUR OF PARIS THAT MADE HIM THINK HE WAS IN LOVE WITH THAT GIRL!

Once the idea struck me, I took possession of my very soul! The night was all too short, as tears forgotten, I schemed and planned to get Chad back! Next day I wore my most seductive dress... hardly suitable for an office, but admirable for my purpose, I thought!



GOOD MORNING, CHAD! DID YOU RING FOR ME?

NO, I DIDN'T, AVIS!

Justin Brothers IMPROVIS



WELL, AS LONG AS I'M HERE, CHAD, PERHAPS I CAN HELP YOU! THAT LOOKS LIKE AN AWFULLY BIG PILE OF WORK TO BE TACKLING YOURSELF!

IT IS A BIG PILE, BUT AS A MATTER OF FACT, I REALLY DON'T NEED ANY HELP JUST NOW! I WANT TO SPEND THE MORNING CATCHING UP ON WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING WHILE I WAS GONE!

Justin Brothers IMPROVIS



I'LL BE PRETTY BUSY FOR AWHILE, AVIS! WILL YOU PLEASE SEE THAT I'M NOT DISTURBED? I'LL RING WHEN I NEED YOU!

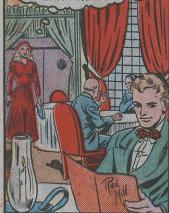
HE HARDLY LOOKED AT ME! HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW I'M ON THIS EARTH! ALL HE CAN DO IS SIT AND OGLE AT THAT PICTURE OF HIS PRECIOUS LOUISE!

Days have gone by and I've scarcely exchanged a word with Chad! I've seen as if he's deliberately avoiding me! And that isn't all! I know I'm about to have a few minutes alone with him, yet I feel his story is almost unbelievable! I'll write it down!



DIARY LOVES

THERE'S CHAD NOW! I'LL JUST SAUNTER BY CASUALLY AND PRETEND I DIDN'T HEAR HIM SAY THAT THIS IS WHERE HE WAS GOING FOR LUNCH TODAY!

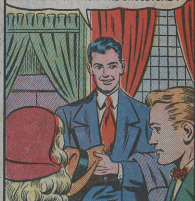


WHY, CHAD? I DIDN'T KNOW YOU ATE LUNCH HERE. TOO? MIND IF I JOIN YOU?

WELL-- ER-- ALL RIGHT, AVIS!



HELLO, YOU TWO? I HAD A HUNCH I'D FIND YOU HERE, AVIS! I JUST GOT AN IMPORTANT CALL AND HAD TO LEAVE THE OFFICE ALL ALONE! BE A GOOD GIRL AND RUSH BACK! YOU CAN HAVE A SANDWICH SENT UP FROM THE DRUGSTORE!



That keeps happening all the time! If Chad calls me in for dictation, George always finds some reason to look in on us! If I offer to stay overtime to help Chad finish some work, George decides he's swamped and is going to stay, too!

HERE ONE TIME THAT GEORGE WON'T BE ABLE TO INTERFERE! HE'LL STILL BE ATTENDING THE MEETING OF THE FAIR TRADES BUREAU WHEN IT'S TIME FOR CHAD TO TAKE ME HOME FROM THE IMPORTERS' CONVENTION!

READY, AVIS? I WANT TO GET GOOD SEATS, SO THAT YOU CAN TAKE DOWN EVERYTHING IMPORTANT!



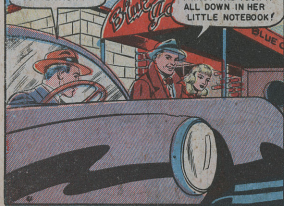
The convention was an ordeal! After working hard all day, it was no cinch to take rapid dictation for three solid hours! But it was over at last and now I was to claim my reward!

THAT WAS QUITE A SESSION, CHAD! I'M ALL IN!

YOU POOR KID! COME ON, I'LL TAKE YOU IN FOR A CUP OF COFFEE BEFORE WE GO HOME!



HI, KIDS! THE MEETING WAS OUT EARLY SO I THOUGHT I'D MAKE THE CONVENTION!



YOU'RE A LITTLE LATE, OLD MAN! BUT YOU DIDN'T MISS ANYTHING! AVIS TOOK IT ALL DOWN IN HER LITTLE NOTEBOOK!

GEORGE, AS LONG AS YOU CAME ALONG, WOULD YOU MIND TAKING AVIS HOME? THAT'LL GIVE ME A CHANCE TO WRITE TO LOUISE BEFORE I TURN IN!

OF COURSE, CHAD, IT'LL BE A PLEASURE!

No! This couldn't be happening again! They hadn't even consulted my wishes in the matter! Silently, I walked toward George's car, so furiously angry for words!



DIARY LOVES



WELL, HERE WE ARE, AVIS! I'M SORRY YOU WOULDN'T AT LEAST LET ME BUY YOU A CUP OF COFFEE!

THANKS, GEORGE BUT I'M ANXIOUS TO GET TO BED! I'VE HAD A HARD DAY!



DON'T GO YET, AVIS! I WANT TO TALK TO YOU... ABOUT CHAD! DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TIME YOU PUT HIM OUT OF YOUR MIND? YOU'LL HAVE TO SOON, ANYWAY! LOUISE WILL BE HERE IN JUST A FEW DAYS!



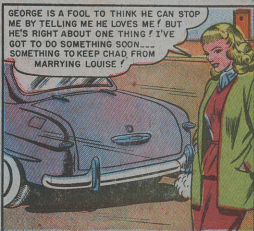
I'D LIKE TO KNOW, GEORGE, JUST WHY YOU'RE SO CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT I DO?

BECAUSE I DON'T WANT YOU TO BE HURT, AVIS! I LOVE YOU TOO MUCH!

If George had taken me in his arms then, who knows what I might have done! It was good to feel that someone cared what happened to me! Instead...

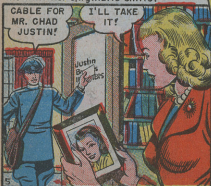


I'M NOT GOING TO SAY ANY MORE ABOUT HOW I FEEL JUST NOW! YOU'VE GOT TO BE FREE TO WORK OUT YOUR OWN PROBLEMS! BUT SOMEDAY, WHEN YOU'VE HAD TIME TO GET OVER THIS, WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT AGAIN!



GEORGE IS A FOOL TO THINK HE CAN STOP ME BY TELLING ME HE LOVES ME! BUT HE'S RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING! I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING SOON... SOMETHING TO KEEP CHAD FROM MARRYING LOUISE!

My chance came sooner than I expected! Chad and George had gone out to lunch next day when I slipped into Chad's office, indulging in my favorite pastime...gazing with frenzied hatred at Louise's picture! Louise...beautiful, silent, taunting me with her enigmatic smile!



CABLE FOR MR. CHAD JUSTIN!

I'LL TAKE IT!

Justin says it's urgent!

CABLEGRAM

CHAD DARLING
ARRIVING AT LA GUARDIA
AIRPORT ON AFTERNOON
PLANE CAN'T WAIT
TO SEE YOU ALL MY
LOVE

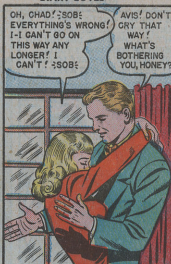
LOUISE

WELL, AT LEAST CHAD WON'T BE AT THE AIRPORT TO MEET YOU, LOUISE! I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'LL CARE FOR THAT VERY MUCH!

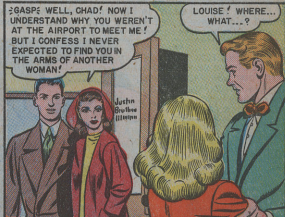
I knew I had no right to open that cable, but by that time my warped, twisted soul was far beyond all sense of decency! I went back to my desk, breathlessly awaiting Chad's return!



DIARY LOVES



All my pent-up love and passion, all my yearning, my desire for Chad, I put into that kiss! My heart pounded crazily, my blood rose in a dizzy flight as I exultantly felt Chad responding, crushing his lips to mine, so that I almost cried out with the fierce, sweet pain!



It was only then I realized that George had come in right behind Louise! Resentment boiled up in me as I whirled to face him!



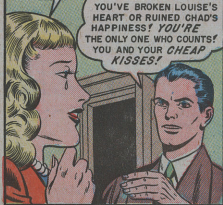
DIARY LOVES

Unbelievably, the slow fire of passion began to smoulder deep within me as George seized me and kissed me harshly...cruelly!



GEORGE! \equiv SOBE
OH, GEORGE!

THAT'S RIGHT, CRY!
CRY BECAUSE YOU'RE
HURT! DON'T CARE THAT
YOU'VE BROKEN LOUISE'S
HEART OR RUINED CHAD'S
HAPPINESS! YOU'RE
THE ONLY ONE WHO COUNTS!
YOU AND YOUR *CHEAP
KISSES!*



The world came tumbling down, crashing in my ears! I was choked and covered with the littered debris of my own ruthless selfishness! Nothing mattered any more, and I was too mixed up to care!

CABLEGRAM



I don't know how long I stayed there, almost insensible, trying to pull myself out of the deadly apathy into the cold light of reality!

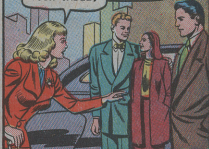
I NEVER REALLY LOVED CHAD!
 \equiv SOBE BUT MY STUBBORN PRIDE
WOULDN'T LET ME TURN BACK
ONCE I STARTED! \equiv SOBE I'VE
RUINED EVERYTHING \equiv SOBE AND
LOST GEORGE'S LOVE!



I'VE GOT TO FIND LOUISE
RIGHT AWAY! I'VE GOT TO
MAKE HER UNDERSTAND
WHAT HAPPENED!



LOUISE! THANK HEAVEN YOU'RE STILL
HERE! IT WAS ALL MY FAULT! CHAD
NEVER WANTED ME, BUT I REFUSED
TO LET HIM GO! I DELIBERATELY DID
EVERYTHING I COULD TO BREAK UP
YOUR ENGAGEMENT! I EVEN HID
YOUR CABLE!



IT'S ALL RIGHT, AVIS! CHAD
TOLD ME THE WHOLE STORY
AND I BELIEVED HIM! I
SHOULDN'T HAVE RUN AWAY
WITHOUT GIVING HIM A
CHANCE TO EXPLAIN!

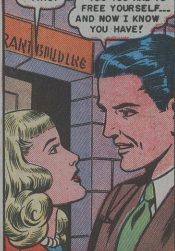


AT LEAST CHAD AND LOUISE ARE
HAPPY NOW! THEIR LOVE HAS STOOD
THE TEST! PERHAPS SOME DAY I'LL
BE WORTHY OF A LOVE LIKE THEIRS!



AVIS, DARLING!
PLEASE DON'T
GO AWAY!

YOU MEAN YOU
STILL WANT ME?
AFTER ALL
THIS?

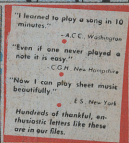
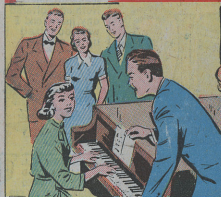


I'LL ALWAYS
WANT YOU,
AVIS! I TOLD
YOU YOU HAD TO
FREE YOURSELF...
AND NOW I KNOW
YOU HAVE!

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OR DON'T PAY!

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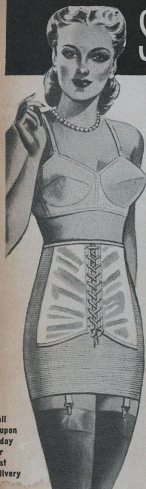
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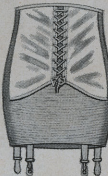
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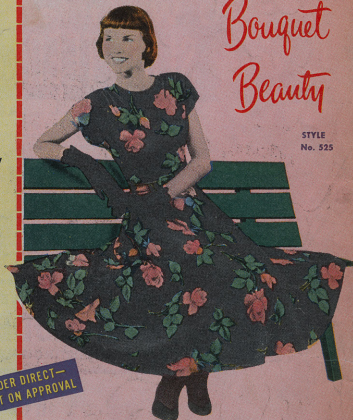
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